

Iowa Outdoors
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
www.iowadnr.com

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1. Hot Weather Caused Busy Parks, Crowded Waterways Over the Holiday Weekend
2. Lake Keomah State Park Unveils \$1.4 Million in New Features
3. Osprey Hatch Documented in Iowa
4. Iowa Fishing Report

**HOT WEATHER CAUSED BUSY PARKS, CROWDED
WATERWAYS OVER THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

DES MOINES – Campers and day use visitors crowded Iowa state parks this past weekend, but many state parks had campsites available. Most campsites were non-electric, but a few parks had some unfilled electric sites.

One possible reason was the hot and humid July weather may have caused some campers to stay home in the air conditioning rather than brave the elements.

“It was one of the smoothest Fourth of Julys that I can remember,” said Jim Lawson, DNR parks supervisor for south-central Iowa. “And typically this holiday can be one of the most unruly.”

Day use at state parks and recreation areas was extremely heavy with most people either boating or swimming. With all the extra visitors, problems were few, but, unfortunately, there were a few serious incidents.

- A 17-year-old male was killed in Lewis and Clark State Park when he lost control of his car and struck a tree Saturday afternoon. Alcohol was not a factor.
- Three people were injured during a professional fireworks display at Lake Macbride State Park, when one of the fireworks misfired and injured the nearby spectators Friday night.
- A 23-year-old man drown on the Missouri River Friday
- A 4-year-old girl drown at the Coralville Reservoir Sunday.
- A number of boaters were cited for disturbance on Saylorville Lake Sunday.

- An assault took place in a boat on Pleasant Creek Sunday.
- BWI and OWI arrests at Lake Red Rock Sunday afternoon.

“Any time we have an extremely high use weekend with good weather conditions, people have to use good judgement and reduce the use of alcohol,” said Rod Slings, recreational safety program supervisor for the DNR.

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LAKE KEOMAH STATE PARK UNVEILS \$1.4 MILLION IN NEW FEATURES

OSKALOOSA – Improvements totaling more than \$1.4 million at Lake Keomah State Park will be featured during a public dedication ceremony July 19, the DNR has announced.

“In the last five years, major park improvements have been undertaken including renovation of the 70-year-old lodge, beach house and group camp building,” explained Ross Harrison of the DNR. “Every effort was extended to retain the ‘function and feel’ of the buildings first constructed by the CCCs in the early 1930s during the Great Depression.

“Lake Keomah has become one of the state’s finest parks because of the recent investments in restoring the historic buildings, improving the roads, parking lots and adding the new campground shower building,” said Harrison.

Despite recent difficulties with state budgets, he said the governor and the legislature aided the park developments with gaming funds that go into the Restore the Outdoors program and with support from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Most park facilities remained open and functional during the construction phases, but now the park is in full operation.

The public is welcome to participate in the dedication ceremony and should arrive by 11 a.m. for the program that begins at 11:30 at the restored lodge. The Wapello County Pork Producers is providing a free barbeque lunch at the completion of the program and hay rack tours of the park will be available. Harrison said Smokey the Bear will also be on hand.

For more information, contact Harrison at 515-281-5973

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OSPREY HATCH DOCUMENTED IN IOWA

SPIRIT LAKE - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources announces the first documented nesting of osprey in Iowa since European settlement. To mark the occasion the osprey chick will be banded at 7 p.m., July 10 at the Spirit Lake Middle School outdoor classroom.

A nesting structure for ospreys was placed at the site by personnel from Alliant Energy and DNR employee Tim Waltz, of Spirit Lake. Ospreys have been released throughout Iowa and Minnesota in the hope of expanding their range further south.

Ospreys possess very strong natal site fidelity, meaning they return to the site they fledged from. Where they fledge is where they first flew and first captured their prey. Ospreys eat fish almost exclusively and were adversely affected by the biocide of the last century when DDT was used heavily. Like other raptors, or birds of prey, osprey numbers are increasing from near total decimation. In order to expand their population, young birds are relocated away from their hatching sites.

One of the adult ospreys at Spirit Lake was relocated as a young osprey from a nest in northern Minnesota and released at Minnetonka, Minn. in 1997.

For further information contact Pat Schlarbaum at the DNR wildlife station in Boone at 515-432-2823.

Osprey Banding

Three osprey chicks will be banded Wednesday, July 16 at 10 a.m. at the Coralville Reservoir. The Macbride Raptor Project spearheaded Osprey releases in Iowa. Since 1997, 26 Ospreys were released by project personnel and volunteers.

This year, their efforts are rewarded with a nesting pair of Iowa released birds. Male A5 was released in 1998 at their site overlooking Coralville Reservoir. Female H2 was released from Saylorville Reservoir in 2000 by personnel of Polk and Boone County Conservation Boards.

Both projects rely heavily on volunteers to complete the effort. All Iowa birds are banded with a number/letter purple band. Wild produced Iowa osprey will also have a green U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band. These colors are unique to Iowa birds. Please report any color-banded osprey to conservationists.

For further information please contact Jodeane Cancilla at Macbride Raptor Project 319-398-5495 or Pat Schlarbaum at DNR Wildlife Diversity office at 515-432-2823.

Osprey Releases

Each year young osprey from areas of Minnesota and Wisconsin are relocated to states further south. Ospreys have a tendency to return to place of origin and not disperse to new areas.

Relocated birds will bond to new areas and distribute continental osprey population throughout the Midwest. At 42 days, young osprey can tear apart fish, which constitutes the majority of their diet. This is the age they are suitable for relocation projects.

Nests that have two and three young are targeted and one of the birds is placed at a release site further south. This activity benefits the osprey population as a whole. Hack site (release site) volunteers feed young in a way so not to imprint on humans. Birds are released when they can fly at about 53 days. Volunteers supplement ospreys' diets with fish until self-sufficiency is attained after a few weeks. Young return to their "home" or release areas in three to four years as adults.

On July 16 at 9 a.m., the Polk County Conservation Board and volunteers will place five 42 day-old Osprey from Wisconsin. The hack site is at campground number 4 of Jester Park, near Granger. For further details contact Joe Boyles at (515) 285-7612.

On July 17 at 10 a.m. at the Hartman Reserve Nature Center, near Cedar Falls, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board will place four young ospreys at their site. This site has released 16 of the purple-banded birds since 1998. Volunteers are watching for any purple-banded returning birds to document the first nesting Osprey for their area. For further information contact Amber Shinn or Vern Fish (319) 277-2187.

Also on July 17 at 10 a.m., the Boone County Conservation Board and volunteers will place five young Ospreys at Don Williams Lake near Ogden. This is the first year of Osprey releases and the volunteers are prepared to do everything they can to secure Osprey nesting in central Iowa. For further information contact Missy King (515) 795-2809.

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IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of July 8, 2003

www.iowadnr.com

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 – 19: Water levels on the Mississippi River, Pools 16 – 19 have been rising slowly. Water temperature is in the upper 70s. Catfishing is still very good along riprap and near the mouths of creeks. Stink bait, chicken liver and worms are all good baits. Fresh water drum fishing is very good on worms. Bluegill fishing is slow to good in Big Timber in Pool 17 and Bell Pocket in Pool 18. Walleye fishing is fair to good on wing dams with three ways and floating jig heads with a worm.

Lake Darling (Washington): Catfish are biting on chicken liver and stink bait. Later in the evening seems to be the best time but anglers are also catching some nice ones during the day.

Lake Geode (Henry): Anglers catching bluegills are using small jigs or ice fishing jigs tipped with red worms. They are catching some nice fish (up to 10 inches) in 6 to 8 feet of water. Catfishing has also been fairly good; stick along the ledges for the best luck. The annual dragon boat races are this Friday and Saturday so expect some extra traffic on the lake. There will also be some construction equipment in the park, as the DNR will be dredging the silt ponds, hopefully starting the middle of this week.

Lake Odessa (Louisa): Water levels are staring to be lowered for the summer. The anglers are still catching some nice bluegills and crappies in Sand Run, but fishing is spotty during the hotter days.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Channel catfish have been biting on night crawlers and cut bait. Walleyes have been hitting on night crawlers drifted or trolled.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Largemouth bass have been hitting on artificial lures. Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a chunk of night crawler.

Lake Miami (Monroe): Largemouth bass have been hitting on artificial lures. Early morning and later in the evening have been the best times. Channel catfish have been biting on liver and night crawlers. Bluegills continue to bite on small jigs tipped with a night crawler.

Lake Keomah (Mahaska): Channel catfish have been biting on night crawlers. Largemouth bass have been hitting on crankbaits and spinner baits.

Coralville Reservoir (Johnson): Catfishing continues to be fair to slow on various baits close to the rock walls. A few anglers still report catching some decent crappie.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): A few catfish continue to bite near the causeway and throughout the lake on dip baits and night crawlers.

Pleasant Creek (Linn): White bass fishing has been good on surface baits. Largemouth bass fishing continues to be good on artificial baits.

Wapsipinicon River (Jones): Fishing has been good throughout the river for catfish on various baits. Smallmouth bass have been biting on small crankbaits, especially crayfish imitations.

Skunk River (Washington and Henry): Catfishing has been fair to poor on the river. The river is at nice levels for boating and for catching carp.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River Pools 9 - 15: Water temperature at Guttenberg is 78 degrees and water is slightly stained from recent rains. Levels are expected to remain fairly steady or rise slightly. **Pools 9-11:** Both largemouth and smallmouth bass are biting in the upper pools. Good numbers of *short* fish are being caught and make great action for young anglers. Largemouth are being caught on tree dead falls and lily pad edges. Anglers are using swimming jigs or spinner baits for the best action. Smallmouth are being caught in good numbers on rock points, jetties and wing dams. Crankbaits and tube jigs are the lures of choice. Northern pike are also being caught in good numbers. Try fishing near tributary stream mouths or cold spring areas for best results as summer temperatures heat up. Pike are mainly being caught on spinner baits. Freshwater drum (sheepshead) are being caught in current areas such as wing dams and side channel sloughs. Drum can be caught on a simple rig with a hook and sliding egg sinker. Night crawlers or crayfish make good bait. If you plan on keeping drum, throw them in a cooler with ice immediately after catching them. This keeps their flesh firm when you fillet them later. **Pools 12-15:** Walleye fishing is good using crankbaits, night crawlers and leeches fished along the wing dams and rocky areas. Freshwater drum fishing is excellent using night crawlers in side channels and on wing dams. Move until you find fish—don't sit in one place too long. If you haven't had a bite in 15 minutes, move! Channel catfish are good on night crawlers and stink baits. Move in the same manner as you would for drum fishing. Try the back channels, sand flats with 3 to 6 feet of water and wing dams for hungry *cats*. Largemouth bass fishing is excellent using all kinds of approaches—especially top-water baits and spinner baits. Fish the backwater areas and main channel borders with little or no current. Panfishing has slowed.

Upper Iowa River (Winneshiek): Smallmouth bass fishing is good to excellent on a variety of lures.

Turkey River (Fayette): Smallmouth bass fishing is good to excellent. Walleye fishing is good in the deeper holes using jigs and power minnows.

Cedar River (Floyd): Channel catfish are biting on stink baits fished below the dams.

Cedar (Bremer and Black Hawk), **West Fork Cedar** (Butler) and **Shell Rock rivers** (Butler): Channel catfish are excellent on stink baits, dead frogs, night crawlers, crawfish and chicken liver.

Wapsipinicon River (Buchanan): The river is rising due to recent rains and channel catfish are excellent on a variety of baits.

Maquoketa River (Delaware): Channel catfish are good on dead baits and blood baits.

Casey Lake (Tama): Fishing is good for bluegill using wax worms or tube jigs in 10 feet of water around structure.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Bluegills are biting on wax worms. Channel catfish are hitting on night crawlers and chicken liver. Use a night crawler on a Lindy rig for largemouth bass.

Lake Meyer (Winneshiek): Largemouth bass fishing is good on plastic baits. Fishing is excellent for 8 to 9-inch crappies on small jigs. Bluegill fishing is good on light tackle.

County Farm Ponds (Delaware and Black Hawk): Bluegill fishing is good using red or green colored ice jigs tipped with wax worms. Largemouth bass fishing is good using crankbaits and top-water plugs.

Trout fishing and stream conditions vary depending on recent rainfall. For current trout stocking information, contact the Big Spring Hatchery at 563-245-1699, Decorah Hatchery at 563-382-3315 or Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-5736. You can also view the trout stocking calendar on-line by going to www.iowadnr.com, clicking on **Fish and Fishing** and then choosing **Favorite Pages**.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is good. Fish can be found in 18 to 20-feet of water. Find the weed line and troll live bait rigs or crankbaits. An occasional smallmouth bass is being caught while fishing for walleyes. Yellow perch fishing has been inconsistent. Use small leeches or wax worms along the weed lines.

West Okoboji (Dickinson): Anglers are catching bluegills in deeper water. Echo Bay and Hayward's Bay are good locations. Use a bobber and leech in 15 to 20-feet of water. Largemouth bass are starting to be caught along the weed lines. Anglers are catching walleyes along the weed lines using a leech and bobber or crankbaits. Some muskies are being caught in Smith's Bay, Emerson Bay and at the north end.

East Okoboji (Dickinson): Anglers are catching channel catfish at the north end using stink bait.

Silver Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing remains fair to good. Troll crankbaits, or use a leech or night crawler at night under a lighted bobber.

Little Sioux River (Clay): Channel catfish are good using cut bait.

Five Island Lake (Palo Alto): Walleyes are fair to good trolling plugs or using live bait rigs. Bluegills are also being caught.

Lost Island Lake (Palo Alto and Clay): Catfish are biting on prepared baits.

Silver Lake (Palo Alto): Bullhead fishing is excellent using traditional rigs.

Lake Pahoja (Lyon): Channel catfish are good using chicken liver and chubs. The cats are ranging from 1 to 4 pounds. Crappie, bluegill and yellow perch fishing is good, although the fish are on the small size. Try using a small hook tipped with a wax worm.

Willow Creek (Osceola): Largemouth bass fishing is good using top-water lures over vegetation or throwing weedless plastic worms along the edge in 4 to 6-feet of water.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Yellow bass are being caught around the rock reefs using minnows and cut bait. Try different spots until locating a school of fish. Channel catfish are good using chicken liver, stink bait and chubs. Rush beds in the west end, rock reefs and the wind blown shorelines are the best spots.

Little Wall Lake (Hamilton): Channel catfish are hitting on chicken liver and stink bait around the stake beds and brush piles.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac): A few catfish are being caught, but the action has slowed.

Storm Lake (Buena Vista): Channel catfish are fair around the islands.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Crappie fishing is slow. A few catfish have been caught at the silt dam bridges. Sunfish can be found everywhere on the lake. Try fishing worms on the bottom in 10 to 15-feet of water. A few walleyes have been caught along the shoreline using crankbaits.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Green Valley (Union): Largemouth bass can be caught with crankbaits along shore. Channel catfish fishing is good using cut bait and liver. Crappies are being caught in deep water along the channel.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Bluegills are being caught on the spawning beds near the back of the bay area, on the west side of the lake. Channel catfish can be caught off the steep points.

Three Mile (Union): Walleyes are good using leeches, night crawlers, or crank baits on roadbed and main points. Anglers drifting some of the flats are also doing well. Channel catfish are being caught on night crawlers or cut bait off the rocks and around the fish cleaning station. Largemouth bass fishing is good throughout the lake.

Twelve Mile (Union): Channel catfish fishing is good on cut bait and liver. Walleye fishing is good using leeches in 8 to 10-feet of water on the points. Anglers are catching a lot of yellow bass.

Little River (Decatur): Some walleye are being caught using trolling crankbaits around the larger points and along the dam. Channel catfishing is best using cut bait and liver in the bays.

Walnut Creek Marsh (Ringgold): Big bluegills can be caught by drift fishing the channel along the south shore.

Icaria (Adams): One to 4-pound channel catfish are being caught everywhere using cut bait and liver.

Viking (Montgomery): Crappie fishing is fair using tube jigs tipped with a minnow, or a minnow suspended from a bobber, fished around brush piles or suspended in 8 to 10-feet of water. Catfish fishing has been good on liver. Bluegills are fair with jigs and night crawlers.

Cold Springs (Cass): Catfish are being caught on liver and prepared baits.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Channel catfish are excellent using liver or prepared baits.

Greenfield (Adair): Fishing is fair for 8-inch bluegills using jigs and/or night crawlers along shoreline and around brush piles. Anglers are also catching lots of small largemouth bass.

Orient (Adair): Fishing is good for channel catfish using prepared stink bait or cut fish.

Nodaway (Adair): Bluegills are biting on jigs/night crawlers along shore and around structure. Channel catfish is good using liver and prepared baits.

Morman Trail (Adair): Anglers have been catching bluegills along the shoreline. Walleye fishing is good on cloudy days or toward evening, drifting night crawlers.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Fishing is good for 8-inch crappies on jigs/minnows around brush piles. Channel catfish fishing is good using liver. Bluegills are being

caught on small jigs or a small piece of night crawler on a small hook suspended with a bobber near the shoreline. Largemouth bass fishing has been good.

Willow (Harrison): Largemouth bass fishing is good for sub-legal sized fish using a variety of baits. Anglers are catching 1.5 pound channel catfish on liver, night crawlers, and prepared baits.

Desoto Bend (Harrison): Bluegill fishing is good during the early evening hours. Anglers are catching channel catfish using liver and prepared baits.

Farm Ponds (SW Iowa): Largemouth bass and channel catfish fishing is good. Anglers are reminded that permission needs to be granted to fish on private farm ponds.

Big Creek Lake (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been good to excellent in water 8 to 10 feet deep using pieces of worms on 1/32 oz jigs and slip bobbers. Walleye fishing has been excellent using lead-headed jigs and minnows, although most walleye caught are below the 15-inch legal size limit. Channel catfish fishing has been good using cut and stink baits. Some nice-sized catfish have been reported.

Beaver Lake (Dallas): Bluegill fishing is good with the best areas around the woody structure along the shorelines. Largemouth bass fishing has also been good using a variety of lures. Some nice-sized bullheads are also in Beaver Lake, try night crawlers around the jetties.

Don Williams (Boone): Bluegill fishing has been good in the mornings and evenings. Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers in the north end of the lake. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair using top-water lures around shoreline structure.

Lake Ahquabi (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been good using night crawlers or wax worms. Redear sunfish fishing has also been good with the best success coming from using wax worms fished close to the bottom around the vegetation and woody areas and small coves. Crappie fishing is fair using crappie jigs and/or wax worms or worms. Largemouth bass – primarily sub-legal sized fish – are being caught on crankbaits. Channel catfish fishing has been good.

Hooper Lake (Warren): Bluegill and redear have been caught using traditional baits and lures. Some largemouth bass are being caught on crankbaits, although as in Lake Ahquabi, most fish are under the legal limit.

Rock Creek (Jasper): Crappie fishing has been fair for boat anglers in deeper water using jigs and minnows. Most fish are 9 to 10 inches. Channel catfish fishing has been good using night crawlers.

Easter Lake (Polk): Crappie and bluegill fishing has been fair to good with anglers using jigs and minnows and/or worms. Largemouth bass has been slow with the majority taken along the face of the dam using spinners and top-water lures. Channel catfish are being taken in the shallower areas using night crawlers and stink baits.

Hickory Grove Lake (Story): Crappie fishing is fair using jigs/minnows. Bluegill fishing is good using small hooks and tipped with worms. Channel catfish fishing is good.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): White bass/wiper fishing has been good either trolling or vertical jigging. Channel catfish fishing has picked up using traditional baits.

Tailwater: White bass fishing has been fair to good below Saylorville using leadheads and twister tails, although fishing for all species has been slowed due to the high releases

of water from Saylorville Lake. Some channel catfish have been caught using traditional baits and a few flathead catfish have been reported.

Lake Red Rock (Marion): Crappie fishing has been fair particularly around rocky areas of the lake. Channel catfish fishing has been good along shorelines using night crawlers. **Tailwater:** Crappie and channel catfish fishing has been good in the tailwater from Lake Red Rock using jigs and/or minnows for crappie and more traditional baits for channel cats. Some flathead catfish have also been reported caught in the area below the reservoir.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

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